

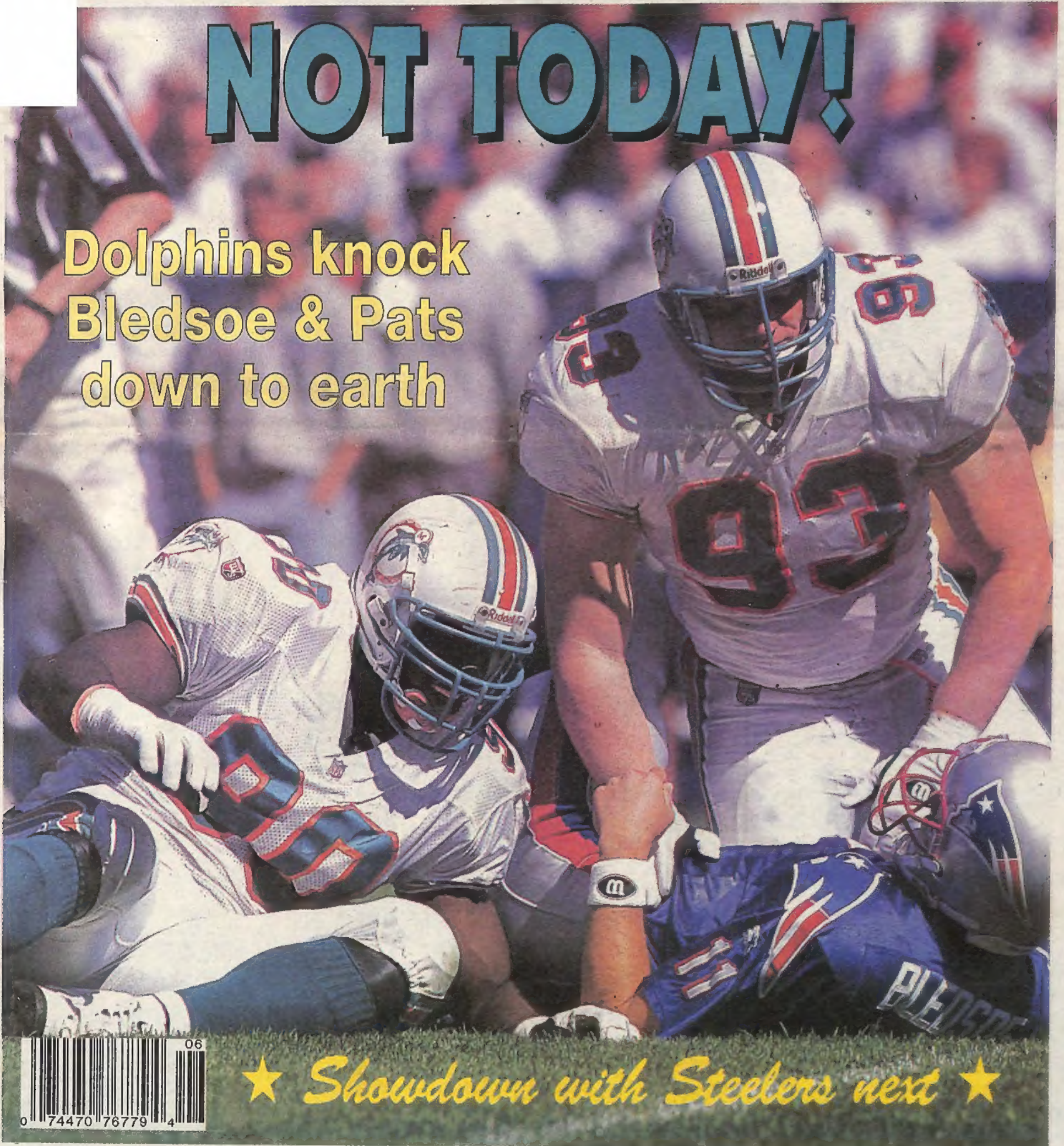
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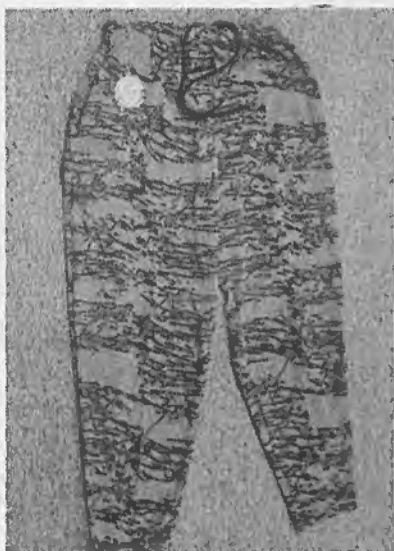
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# Patriots not in Dolphins' class

I never understood why so many of the experts in the field of football predicted that the Patriots were ready to compete for the top spot in the NFL. Bill Parcells' team had a QB, the best receiving tight end in the league, and a young, inspired defense.



**TOM  
CURTIS**  
PUBLISHER

But comparing the Patriots to the Dolphins was not even close and Miami's 20-3 win reinforced that point. Don Shula has Dan Marino at quarterback, the best all-around tight end in the NFL, and a play-making defense.

No contest — and it wasn't.

The Steelers were a different story coming into the season. They had the best defense in the NFL, a young, talented coach in Bill Cowher, and were in the AFC title game last season. However, injuries to the best defensive player in the league, Rod Woodson, and quarterback Neil O'Donnell has hurt them.

The Dolphins have an excellent chance to go 3-0 on Monday night, take the week off and listen to comparisons of Cowboys, 49ers and '72 seasons. But the NFL season is long and there are many obstacles in their way.

The injury thing is the most important factor. For a while in New England, when Keith Byars went down, it looked like the Dolphins had suffered their first significant injury of the season. The offense changes without Byars because Robert Wilson cannot replace him.

The news on Byars is good, but it would be close to a miracle for a team to make it through an NFL season without significant injuries. The Dolphins have outstanding depth now: the best backup QB, three deep at running back, six quality defensive linemen, an extra starting linebacker, and No. 1 picks as nickel and dime defensive backs.

The Dolphins are healthy right now and few will argue they are the best team in the AFC, a loss to the Steelers on Monday night notwithstanding. But fewer would rate them the equal to Deion's new team or the defending champs.

The win in New England was impressive for a number of reasons and the score should have been 30-something to 3. The Dolphins had 10 penalties, turned the ball over three times and missed two interceptions that could have been returned for touchdowns.



Linebacker Bryan Cox did a little bit of everything for the Dolphins defense last Sunday against the Patriots, including recording a sack and an interception. Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL

The defense continues to play a diversified, playmaking style. The Patriots could not run the ball, as Curtis Martin's 40 yards on 18 attempts indicates. But more important, Ben Coates caught just three passes for 23 yards from Drew Bledsoe.

The secondary is in sync and playing better than ever, although the improved play of the front line must have something to do with it. Troy Vincent looks like the best corner in the AFC, now that Woodson

is out, and J.B. Brown has been solid on the other side.

It is the play of the safeties that has been surprising. Gene Atkins has been a quality free safety in the NFL for many years but he has never looked quicker or hit those crossing receivers harder than right now.

Michael Stewart, who I criticized last season for not playing well at strong safety, has played like an All-Pro so far in 1995. He did much to shut down Coates, had an intercep-

tion and was in on 11 tackles.

Linebackers Bryan Cox and Chris Singleton had big games against the Patriots, but Dwight Hollier and Aubrey Beavers also contributed. Cox was everywhere, making an interception, stopping the Patriots in short yardage, and sacking the quarterback. He rushes, he defends, and he is the maverick of the Miami defense. Cox is the leader of the D.

Singleton, playing just his second game back from 1994's season-ending injury, did not let the Patriots run to his side and ran down many attempts to the other side. He had a team-high 10 initial hits and was in on 13 tackles. A healthy Singleton is very important to the early success.

The defensive line has been nothing short of dominating. Jeff Cross, who plays inside on passing situations, has never played better in his eight seasons in Miami. He is playing the run correctly and rushing the passer.

Trace Armstrong is an excellent pass rusher from the outside and Tim Bowens controls the inside. Chuck Klingbeil, Marco Coleman and Steve Emtman know their roles. All six were on the field on the fourth-and-goal situation in the fourth quarter, when the Dolphins stopped the Patriots and sealed the game.

The offense deserves its share of the credit for the win in Foxboro. The Dolphins rushed for 182 yards, averaging more than 5 yards per attempt. Marino threw for 193 yards on a 14-for-20 day.

Terry Kirby, still lacking some speed because of last year's injury, rushed for 82 yards and threw a touchdown pass. Bernie Parmalee fumbled for the third time in two games but added 72 yards. Throw Irving Spikes into the mix and the Dolphins have an outstanding three-headed ball carrier.

Irving Fryar had his second straight two-touchdown, 100-yard receiving day. Gary Clark showed he can still catch the ball over the middle and Eric Green displayed his blocking and catching abilities.

Marino figures to use Green more often as a receiver, starting Monday night at JRS. The former Steeler will want the ball and Marino knows how important it is to keep his giant, athletic tight end happy. Green and the offensive line have done a good job run blocking, but it is time to see the big guy make a big play.

The optimism that surrounds the Dolphins right now is justified, but a win over the Steelers on Monday night is necessary to keep it going.



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# Dolphin

DIGEST

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## On the cover...

The Dolphins made life miserable for Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe last Sunday at Foxboro Stadium and the result was an impressive 20-3 victory that upped Miami's record to 2-0.

Cover Photo: KEN KEIDEL



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# Shula answers fans' questions

**Q.** With all the talented wide receivers you have, have you considered using three wide receivers and one back as your base offense? With Marino's arm and all those hands, it might be unstoppable.



**DON SHULA**  
HEAD COACH

**Darren Tagawa**  
Hilo, Hawaii

**A.** We probably use three wide receivers and four wide receivers more than any team in football. We also think that there's a place for the two-back offense, which is also a very important part of our offense.

**Q.** Have you been considering investing in a young, talented quarterback in the near future since Marino is getting up there in quarterback years?

**Mike Votodian**  
Reading, Pa.

**A.** It's getting tougher and tougher to do this in the age of free agency. We thought we had a good young quarterback prospect in Scott Mitchell, and we lost him because of the new system. It's harder and harder to develop a young quarterback on your own.

**Q.** Louis Oliver is back to give us great depth at safety. Would you consider using him at buck linebacker? He has the size and he can stop the run.

**Larry Melat**  
Bradenton, Fla.

**A.** Louis has been more valuable to us as a deep man in our nickel package. But we've also made him responsible for learning the buck linebacker position and he could be used in that situation.

**Q.** Every Dolphins camp has a



Louis Oliver could find himself being used as the buck linebacker at times this season.

Digest Photo/RHONA WISE

**long shot who comes through. Who was the player that stood out this year?**

**Mark Larkin**  
Miami, Fla.

**A.** It seems that every year an unheralded player makes it on our team. This year three players come to mind — Ed Hawthorne, a defensive lineman, Dewayne Dotson, a linebacker, and Jeff Kopp, also a linebacker. We didn't know a lot about them, but they made enough of an impression to make our final cut.

**Q.** Bob Griese has a great football mind. He was one of the most intelligent quarterbacks to play the game. Have you ever discussed with him the possibility of him as an offensive coordinator or some

**other coaching job in the NFL? He seems like a natural.**

**Kevin Duck**  
Alexandria, La.

**A.** In the last year of Griese's career, when he was injured, he spent a lot of time helping us on the coaching staff and did a good job. But he didn't like the late hours, so he decided against coaching as a career. But he did a good job and would be a fine coach.

**Q.** Coach, I felt so bad for you last year when you had to ride around on a golf cart in the playoffs. How is your Achilles and can you now appreciate what Dan Marino went through?

**Sarah Sims**  
Orlando, Fla.

**A.** I realized what a struggle it

was for Dan at the time, but going through it myself made me appreciate how tough it was. It's just an injury that takes a long time, and there's a lot of pain and suffering and inconvenience. But now I'm fine. I'm walking and jogging again. I feel good.

**Q.** Coach, I know the Dolphins gave up a lot to get Trace Armstrong. From what you've seen so far, is he worth it?

**Bob Carmines**  
Tampa, Fla.

**A.** We're very happy about what he's brought to our football team. He's a very intense player that has a lot of ability.

**Q.** I hear a lot of talk about how much depth the Dolphins have this year. Is there an area that, in your opinion, is still too thin?

**Ralph Watkins**  
Melbourne, Fla.

**A.** On paper, it looks like we've got more depth than we've had in a long, long time. We're just hoping we can stay injury-free and continue to have good rehab of last year's injured players: Terry Kirby, Keith Byars, Chris Singleton and Bert Weidner. As long as they stay healthy, I couldn't single out any one area at this point.

**Q.** Is John Kidd the answer at punter or are you still looking to upgrade the position?

**Mark Harinds**  
Miami, Fla.

**A.** We're hoping John does the job for us. He's had some good games, he's had a couple of bad punts, but overall he's had a good career in the NFL as a punter. And we hope he has a good year for us.

Have a question for Coach Don Shula? Send it to Shula Q&A, c/o Dolphin Digest, P.O. Box 526600, Miami, FL 33152. Please be brief.



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# TROY'S TARGET

By CRAIG DOLCH  
Digest Correspondent

**W**ith a multi-million-dollar contract, Troy Vincent has the resources to fly to Honolulu any time he desires. What he really wants, though, is to have someone pay his way to Hawaii, say, around the first weekend in February.

That would mean Vincent finally has arrived in the NFL as a Pro Bowl player. The Miami Dolphins cornerback doesn't hide his intentions: Other than winning a Super Bowl, his most important goal is to make his first Pro Bowl. He talks about it, thinks about it, probably even dreams about it.

"The Pro Bowl is definitely a goal of mine," Vincent said. "I think I'm ready. I think I've groomed myself. I'm ready to take that next step."

Vincent certainly looked like a Pro Bowl player in the Dolphins' season-opening 52-14 win over the New York Jets. He had two interceptions, including one he returned 69 yards for a touchdown that put the exclamation mark on one of the finest performances in his four-year pro career. For good measure, he also had a team-high three pass break-ups.

That this performance came against a team situated in the nation's media capital and was witnessed by most of the country on NBC-TV bodes well for Vincent's Pro Bowl run. His electrifying sprint down the sideline for the touchdown was shown on practically every sports highlights show, giving Vincent an early edge in earning Pro Bowl votes.

Not that Vincent is campaigning for the Pro Bowl. He would prefer to let his abundant talents speak for themselves.

"When you start talking about the Pro Bowl ... I think a player needs to let that take care of itself," he said. "The only thing I can do is be the best defensive back I can be, to work hard each and every day, to concentrate on fundamentals."

Vincent knows what it's like to get close to



Troy Vincent has played some solid football for the Dolphins the last couple of years, but he wants to raise his game to a new level this season and he has made getting to the Pro Bowl one of his biggest goals.

## Vincent shooting for Pro Bowl berth

a Pro Bowl spot, only to have it yanked away because of injury.

Two years ago, he felt like he was on the verge of making the Pro Bowl before having his dream shattered late in the season when he injured his right knee on, of all things, a punt return. The knee required reconstructive surgery, the kind that can end careers for cor-

nerbacks, even 22-year-old cornerbacks.

Vincent amazed observers when he returned in time to start the 1994 season opener. He was back — but not really. Not where he was before. Vincent eventually had to rest his sore knee for three games before returning to the starting lineup for good.

Dolphins coach Don Shula said a player who suffered an injury like Vincent's usually doesn't return to his previous form until the season after he returns. That would be this year. Vincent's performance against the Jets would seem to make Shula look prophetic.

Vincent agrees he's back to where he was before. But he believes he can go even further.

"I'm back to the level of play where I was, but I feel there's so much more inside of me that hasn't been tapped," Vincent said. "Every day I'm doing something to get better. I look at tape. I criticize myself every day. I've got to find a way to do this better."

Vincent, the team's first-round pick in 1992 from Wisconsin, hasn't done too bad. Starting just his fourth season, he already ranks 11th in Dolphins history with 11 interceptions in 43 games.

All of the 10 players ahead of him were in the league longer, though leader Jake Scott had 35 in just six seasons (1970-

75). Vincent has used his athleticism to record two of the six longest interception returns in club history (76 and 69).

Dolphins receiver Gary Clark, who entered this season eighth on the NFL's all-time receptions list, has gone against his share of cornerbacks in the league. What he hasn't often found is someone who combines Vincent's size (6 feet, 184 pounds) and 4.39 speed in the 40.

"He has this wingspan," Clark said. "He has long arms and legs and he has great speed. You usually don't find that; it's either one or the other."

See VINCENT, next page

## VINCENT, from preceding page

But Clark said it's not just his physical talents that separates Vincent from other cornerbacks. Vincent refuses to accept anything less than his best, Clark said.

"He wants to become a great player," Clark said of Vincent. "He practices very hard and he's very focused. He's always serious. You can tell he wants the same prestige those other cornerbacks are getting."

While some players concern themselves with just who they'll be playing against each week, Vincent studies his peers. He watches the league's top cornerbacks for comparisons.

He pays attention whenever rankings are posted on the league's top players at each position. In a sense, he's still playing like a college senior trying to impress scouts.

"I've heard talk and I've seen some articles where the pro scouts rank me," Vincent said. "I'm up there. I'm 4, 5, 6 ... I've never dropped below 7 on any list. I'll take that. That's not too shabby."

"I consider it a compliment to even be considered in the same conversation with some of the elite cornerbacks in the league. Most of them all have years on me, and I know I've got better days ahead."

Instead of feeling threatened by the older cornerbacks, Vincent draws on their experiences for advice. He considers Albert Lewis and Terry McDaniel to be among his mentors.

Vincent said he spent some time with McDaniel at a recent charity golf tournament. In-



Vincent doesn't always have all the answers, but it's never because of a lack of effort. Digest Photo/RHONA WISE

evitably, the conversation turned to the Pro Bowl. These two could serve as a before-and-after picture for cornerbacks looking for Pro Bowl respect.

"He didn't make it (Pro Bowl) until his fifth season or so," Vincent said of McDaniel. "It took him that long to keep knocking at the door, knocking at the door, and then, bam!"

If Vincent doesn't make a Pro Bowl, it won't be because of a lack of confidence. While it's often said a good cornerback has to have a short memory — better to forget the bad plays — he also requires the courage to go one-on-one against players like Jerry Rice and Michael Irvin.

"(Dolphins defense coach) Tom Olivadotti always says that cornerback is the easiest to learn in our defense, but the hardest to play," Vincent said. "It's easiest because you're either in a zone or man. It's the hardest because you're on an island, every snap. I'm 15-20 yards away, by myself, going against a Jerry Rice, a Michael Irvin or a Cris Carter."

Vincent believes he's better prepared for success because he knows he can deal with failure. Anybody who has undergone major knee surgery knows what it's like to overcome adversity and perhaps some self-doubt.

He says he's not afraid to make that long walk to the sideline after a receiver has just popped him into the toaster and turned up the heat. "We all get beat," he said. "You just have to limit the times that happens."

Those long walks haven't happened too often lately for Vincent. Now that he's gained more experience and regained his health, he knows Honolulu is getting closer and closer to him in Miami.

"About the Pro Bowl, it will happen, I know it will happen," he said. "At this point of my career, the sky is the limit for me."

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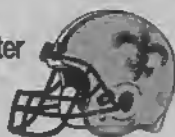
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# Bills reach new low in opener

BY TERRY HUTCHENS  
Digest Correspondent

It didn't take long for **Jim Kelly** to become agitated over the way his Bills looked in the season-opening loss to Denver.



One film session Monday was about all it took.

"That was probably the worst game I've ever seen us play," Kelly said. "It just got to the point where I didn't even want to watch (the film) anymore. It was really that bad. I don't ever remember a game in which our offense made so many mistakes."

Kelly's biggest gripe was with the receiving corps and the routes that were being run.

"When they knew they weren't getting the ball, they weren't running their routes," he said.

**Walt Corey** was fired as Buffalo's defensive coordinator following a season in which the Bills gave up 321 yards per game. Against the Broncos, the Bills defense allowed 439 yards, the third-highest total allowed by an NFL team in the first weekend.

"I was very disappointed with the defense as a whole," said Bills coach **Marv Levy**. "The most difficult things to accept were some of the coverage breakdowns we had in the secondary. Those things will have to stop."

The Bills looked inept again early last Sunday when they fell behind expansion Carolina 9-0, but they finally got things going and won in a rout, 31-9.

... **Steve Tasker** wound up missing the first two regular season games, against the Broncos and Panthers, but is expected back this week against Indianapolis.

Tasker has been nursing a hamstring injury and it's believed his presence could be a big boost to a struggling young team.

## INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

The preseason had been so simple for **Craig Erickson**.

He had played only the first half in each ballgame, completed 61 percent of his passes, with two touchdowns and, most importantly, no interceptions.

The preseason hype in Indianapolis had escalated and local fans were beginning to believe that the Colts

were indeed a playoff contender. And more specifically that Erickson was the quarterback who could get them there.

Then came Cincinnati in the opener, a 24-21 overtime loss, and a sub-par performance by the former Tampa Bay quarterback. Though he completed 19 of 31 passes for 196 yards, he threw three interceptions and was on the short end of a fumbled snap in the end zone that went for a safety.

Suddenly the natives were getting restless.

Some fans were beginning to scream for **Jim Harbaugh** and ESPN did a report

in which they said Erickson was not looking to his secondary receivers, instead telegraphing his passes and tipping off defenders as to what was coming.

Finally, offensive coordinator **Lindy Infante** stepped into the fray in an attempt to rescue his young quarterback.

"I think it's awfully early to start creating these illusions that there's something out there that maybe isn't there," Infante said. "That first drive (of the game) he was picture-perfect. And throughout most of the game, with the exception of the three interceptions, I thought he played pretty good."

"I think he was given more a share of the blame, because we didn't win, than he probably deserved."

It's safe to assume Indy fans will be calling for Harbaugh again after he replaced an ineffective Erickson against the Jets last Sunday and led the Colts to a come-from-behind victory in overtime.

## NEW YORK JETS

**Wayne Chrebet**, the rookie wide receiver out of nearby Hofstra, got the season-opening start because many people believed newly acquired receiver **Charles Wilson** from Tampa Bay needed a week or two to get acclimated to the system.

The truth is it now appears when Wilson is ready that Chrebet will



Jim Kelly was appalled by the play of the Buffalo offense in the season opener against Denver. Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEI.

start on the opposite side in place of **Ryan Yarborough**. In other words, the rookie free agent has been that impressive.

**Boomer Esiason** first gave him the nickname of "Rudy" after the former Notre Dame player who became the subject of a movie. His latest nickname is "Nails," a name given to former Mets outfielder **Lenny Dykstra** because he was "a gutty little tough guy," says Esiason.

In the season opener Chrebet had three catches for 43 yards. In doing so he had the same number of receptions and 4 more yards receiving than first-round pick **Kyle Brady** out of Penn State.

Chrebet has been the Jets' best story coming out of training camp. He was so sure he wasn't even going to make the team that when the Jets broke camp, he did not make reservations at the local Marriott with teammates who were also making the transition back to the regular season. Because of that, and the fact there has been no room at the inn, Chrebet has been sleeping on a cot at the house of a former Hofstra teammate nearby.

Interestingly, Chrebet is the first Hofstra player in the NFL since **John Schmitt** wrapped up a successful career in Green Bay in 1974. Even more interestingly, Schmitt was the starting center on the Jets' Super Bowl III team.

... Another interesting story is the

one developing between Esiason and tight end **Johnny Mitchell**.

On the team flight home following the season finale last year in Houston, where the Jets were embarrassed by the hapless Oilers 24-10, Mitchell and Esiason were involved in a heated discussion. The main point Mitchell was trying to make was he wanted to know why Esiason didn't like him. Esiason said he harbored no ill-feelings toward Mitchell and suggested an idea to prove it.

Esiason said, why don't they become roommates in '95.

And they have. Despite the fact they are 10 years apart in age and are considered total opposites, Esiason and Mitchell are now paired on the road. They also have their lockers next to each other.

So far all seems to be going well except Mitchell does have one complaint — he says Esiason hogs the remote control.

Esiason's response: "It's a veteran's privilege."

## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Running back **Curtis Martin** earned the nickname "the one-game wonder" from Coach **Bill Parcells** after an impressive performance against Cleveland in the opener.

Martin rushed for 102 yards on 19 carries. In doing so he accomplished something that no Patriots runner did in 1994 — eclipse the 100-yard mark.

His first carry was a 30-yard run, longer than any run from scrimmage in '94.

Parcells is doing his best to take the pressure off his young running back, a third-round pick in the '95 draft out of Pittsburgh. Parcells kept the media away from Martin in the second week of practice so that the young back would properly be able to concentrate on the Miami game.

**Drew Bledsoe** got off to a good start in the opener against a Cleveland team that gave him fits last year.

A year ago, the Patriots lost to the Browns twice — 13-6 in the regular season and 20-13 in the first round of the playoffs. In those games, Bledsoe averaged 47 passes, had one touchdown pass, seven interceptions and three sacks.

In the opener, he threw 47 passes, but had no touchdowns, no interceptions and no sacks.

... **Ben Coates** picked up right where he left off in '94 when he caught 96 passes for 1,174 yards and scored seven touchdowns when he had nine catches for 106 yards in the opener. New Englanders believe if he stays healthy he's a cinch for a 100-reception season.



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# Another D-day for Dolphins

If there were any skeptics viewing Miami's role as AFC favorite with a suspecting eye, last weekend has to be convincing.

New England was supposed to be the team on the rise. It's apparent that the Pats have not closed the gap on the Dolphins. Just as Dallas' 35-0 pasting of the Giants sent a message to the NFC East, 20-3 over the top contender on the AFC East side says that the division will be a walkover.



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Last year's trip to Foxboro produced a 23-3 result. Tight end, major threat Ben Coates caught two passes for 17 yards. If he was harmless on that day, his three for 23 yards could have rendered him invisible on Sunday, save for an offensive interference call that cost his team what could have been its only touchdown.

Again, Tom Olivadotti crafted a defense that not only removed the brilliant Coates, but, well, did anybody see Dave Meggett?

Curtis Martin exceeded 100 yards rushing against another club with Super aspirations, the Browns. The Ferocious Fins held him to 40.

Drew Bledsoe, everybody's choice to succeed Dan Marino as the premier league bomber, has been picked off five times in the last two meetings with Olivadotti's crew with a capital "D." In the first two games of the young season, Olivadotti's bunch with a capital "O" — as in opportunists — has claimed nine turnovers as their own.

Take a good look at the division. Jim Kelly was 4-of-21 against expansionist Carolina, this after being drilled in Denver.



Jeff Cross and the Dolphins simply didn't give Drew Bledsoe a chance to beat them last Sunday and the Patriots simply didn't have enough other weapons. Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL

The Colts were supposed to be dark horses, but Craig Erickson has flopped early and they are back to Jim Harbaugh at quarterback, and their defensive line is too small and they simply aren't there.

In fact, the AFC East is beginning to resemble the Atlantic Coast Conference: one Florida team and the rest.

Sunday could have been worse

for New England. Miami pulled some bonehead plays. Bernie Parmalee fumbled again, and it was costly again. That is three times in two weeks, and that is too many.

Then, Terry Kirby showed why his loss was felt last year. He ran, he caught, and he threw a touchdown. His runs were decisive, explosive.

Now for the most telling statistic of them all, and this should throw

the fantasy geeks for a loop. Miami ran 35 times. They passed on 21 occasions. If I weren't on deadline, I'd go back through the annals to see when the ratio was tilted toward legs. Does the name Woodley ring a bell?

For New England coach Bill Parcells, the loss was a microcosm of his situation. His biggest hope can be his biggest fear.

Bledsoe needs to turn it loose. He seemed so limited when Coates and Meggett were engaged by defenders. Ex-CFL receiver Will Moore has made some plays, but now he has a strained hamstring, and there is no deep go-to threat.

Bill's team couldn't run or stop the Dolphins from running (182 yards). That's a lament that has been heard in these parts for too long. And what was the Tuna thinking when he ordered up a Martin run on fourth down against six defensive linemen and a linebacker?

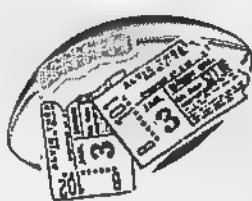
New England ran 18 plays in the red zone and came away with a field goal against Olivadotti's one-upmanship and that's with a capital "D" as in denial.

Dolphins defenders are strutting these days. Bryan Cox says, "For the first time since I've been here, I feel like we have more talent on the defensive side of the ball than on offense."

He's entitled. When Dan Marino was picked off by Ricky Reynolds, Michael Stewart countered on the next play.

If anything could bother Dolphins, perhaps it was the inability to deliver a knockout punch offensively. As was the case in their crash in San Diego, they didn't see the ball much in the third quarter. But Chris Singleton was there this time with his 12 tackles to help lead Olivadotti's unit. Too bad there is no "B" in Olivadotti, as in "Big Play."

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MIAMI 20, NEW ENGLAND 3

# Defense demolishes Pats

By PAT McMANAMON  
Digest Correspondent

FOXBORO, Mass. — Amidst the tape and sweat and weary sighs in the Dolphins locker room last Sunday were plenty of words of acclaim and adulation.

Enough to go all over the room.

"Our secondary and linebackers did an excellent job today," defensive end Trace Armstrong said after the Dolphins' 20-3 win over the New England Patriots, Miami's second win in a row at Foxboro Stadium and 12th over the Patriots in the last 13 games.

"The defensive line totally, totally, totally dominated," cornerback Troy Vincent said after the Dolphins moved to 2-0 and into sole possession of first place in the AFC East.

Not that this win was a complete one-side-of-the-ball effort. The Dolphins offense came up with two big plays and had its best running game in three seasons.

"This is what makes football a lot of fun," said quarterback Dan Marino. "New England is one of the better teams in the AFC. To come into their home park and be able to control the ball, it was a big win for us."

Very big. The Patriots came into the game with high hopes. Their fans talked all week of overtaking the Dolphins in the AFC East. Talk radio had jumped on the Parcells bandwagon.

But Miami averaged more than 5 yards per carry in running for 182 yards, its third-best running game of the '90s and best since a 212-yard performance against Indianapolis Nov. 8, 1992. The Dolphins also completely shut down Martin, the rookie who ran for 102 yards in his debut a week ago.

Sunday, he had 18 carries and totaled 40 yards. As a team, the Patriots gained just 39 yards on the ground.

"I have to give Miami credit," Patriots coach Bill Parcells said. "They certainly outplayed us by a wide margin today."

Odd, considering Pete Stoyanovich had a field goal blocked, Miami was penalized 10 times for 64 yards and the Dolphins lost two fumbles — the second by Bernie Parmalee when Miami led 17-3 and had the ball in-

side the Patriots 10-yard-line.

At that point, the Patriots still had a chance to get back into the game, and moved to a first-and-goal at the Dolphins 7. The defense, though, slammed the door shut on fourth

played, those two scores were plenty.

"There were no secret weapons," cornerback Troy Vincent said. "We just went out and got after them. It was as simple as that."

## IN YOUR FACE!



Steve Emtman and the rest of the Dolphins defense constantly harassed Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe last Sunday afternoon and the result was a convincing 20-3 victory.

Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL

down from the 1.

Someone must have carefully studied the Patriots tendencies, because defense coach Tom Olivadotti sent six defensive linemen on the field for that play. He also kept one of his best run-stopping linebackers (Dwight Hollier) in the middle with Bryan Cox.

New England did just what the Dolphins wanted and ran Martin up the middle.

Hollier, following Cox's penetration, stopped him for a loss of 2 with 12:59 left in the game.

New England had another chance, again moving to the Miami 7. But two plays after a penalty wiped out a touchdown pass to Coates, Jeff Cross tipped a Bledsoe pass and Cox intercepted it.

That marked the fifth — and final — time that the Dolphins kept the Patriots out of the end zone after New England had moved inside the Dolphins 22. Two drives ended on interceptions (by Cox and Michael Stewart), two on downs and one on a Matt Bahr field goal.

Miami's offense, meanwhile, was content to grind it out by effectively using all three of its running backs. Parmalee started and picked up 72 yards. Terry Kirby added 82 on 13 carries — and one touchdown pass — and Irving Spikes ran six times for 29 yards.

Miami scored three times in the first half — on Stoyanovich's 22-yard field goal, Marino's 67-yard touchdown pass to Irving Fryar in the first period and Kirby's halfback-option to Fryar in the second.

That was all Miami's offense could muster until Stoyanovich made his second field goal (from 19 yards) with 2:22 left. But the way the defense



# Kirby recaptures his old form

FOXBORO, Mass. — Let the word spread: Terry Kirby is back.

Sure, he saw limited action in the preseason and the first regular season game and did a decent job. But his real coming-out party was held here last Sunday afternoon when he proved for the first time since his serious knee injury that those legs can still churn for some big gains.

Kirby rushed for 82 yards on 13 carries, including a 38-yard sprint in the fourth quarter that spoke volumes for his physical condition.

"I felt really good out there," Kirby said. "I just let loose and tried to come up with some big plays. I had been getting a few carries here and there, but it was nice to finally be a big part of the offense."

Big, indeed. Not only did Kirby rush the ball effectively, he also threw the first pass of his pro career and the result was a 31-yard touchdown to Irving Fryar.

"I never saw Fryar," he admitted. "I just picked a spot, threw the ball and hoped Fryar would get there."

Someone mentioned that Kirby was now only 300-plus touchdown passes behind Dan Marino.

He laughed. "I think I'm only five behind Keith Byars. I'll try to catch him first."

Kirby's re-emergence has a lot to do with the optimism that now surrounds this team. He was the go-to back before his injury and, with the recent fumbling problems experienced by Bernie Parmalee, could be the main man again sometime soon.

His performance against the Patriots, averaging 6.3 yards a carry, went a long way to dispel any doubts.

"You can just look at Terry now and see him running the way he did before the injury," said Coach Don Shula.

And now Kirby hopes to build upon what he started against the Patriots. He says the knee is now "pretty close" to 100 percent and he is no longer hesitant when hitting a hole. He is bigger now at 225 pounds — his old playing weight was 217 — and feels he can be just as effective up the middle as he can on the outside.

"I've been working so hard to get back into it," Kirby said. "Turning the corner on that 38-yard run, it really felt like old times again."

— Andy Cohen



Terry Kirby not only turned in a solid rushing performance, but he also found time to throw a touchdown pass to Irving Fryar in the second quarter. *Digest Photos/KEN KEIDEL*



Former Patriots linebacker Chris Singleton had a great game against his former team as he came up with 13 tackles.

# Stewart shuts down Coates

FOXBORO, Mass. — Drew Bledsoe called it the biggest play of the game.

Michael Stewart said it was a gamble that worked.

Call it both, and call Stewart's interception of a pass intended for Ben Coates as good a way as any to demonstrate the progress the Miami Dolphins defense has shown the past 12 months.

The play came late in the second period, after Dan Marino had been intercepted by Ricky Reynolds at the Dolphins 22-yard line. Miami led 10-3, and the Patriots home crowd still was in the game.

On first down, Bledsoe dropped back and looked to Coates. Stewart was covering a wide receiver.

"From watching film, I could see that they like to go to Ben down there in close," Stewart said. "I looked inside as I was dropping out and I saw Drew eyeing Ben. I decided to take a shot. I took a chance away from my guy and it worked out."

Stewart's interception at the 4 set up a Miami drive that ended with Terry Kirby's halfback option pass to Irving Fryar that gave Miami a 17-3 lead.

"I throw that ball a little harder and the score is 10-10 and that changes the whole complexion of the game," Bledsoe said.

That play epitomized Miami's defense during the 20-3 win: Miami's defenders simply came up with too many big plays.

The statistics tell the story: Former Patriot Chris Singleton led the team with 13 tackles. Bryan Cox had 13 tackles, one sack and one interception; he forced a fumble and broke up a pass as well.

Stewart had the interception and 11 tackles. He also broke up two passes, and held Coates without a catch until 9:45 was left in the game. Last season, Coates set a new mark for tight ends with 96 receptions, including eight for 161 yards in the season opener — Stewart's first game as a Dolphin.

Sunday, Coates had three catches, and had to work for every one as Stewart blanketed him much of the afternoon.

"This year, a lot of things are more natural to me," Stewart said of his progress in the Dolphins secondary. "You can let your instincts take over. Last year I was feeling myself through, with all the newness."

— Pat McManamon



## Game Summary

**Miami** 10 7 0 3 — 20  
**New England** 0 3 0 0 — 3

### TEAM STATISTICS

	MIA	NE
FIRST DOWNS	21	19
Rushing	8	5
Passing	9	14
Penalty	4	0
3RD-DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-8	5-15
4TH-DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	1-5
TOTAL NET YARDS	406	292
Total plays	56	73
Average gain	7.3	4.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	182	39
Rushes	35	21
Average per rush	5.2	1.9
NET YARDS PASSING	224	253
Completed-attempted	15-21	25-51
Yards per pass	10.7	4.9
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	1-14
Had intercepted	1	2
PUNTS-AVERAGE	2-40.0	3-33.0
RETURN YARDAGE	75	105
Punts-returns	1-0	1-10
Kickoffs-returns	2-63	4-95
Interceptions-returns	2-12	1-0
PENALTIES-YARDS	10-64	7-52
FUMBLES-LOST	3-2	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:59	27:01

### PLAYER STATISTICS

**Missed field goals:** Miami (Stoyanovich 54).  
**Miami rushing:** Kirby 13-82, Parmalee 15-72, Spikes 6-29, Marino 1-1.  
**New England rushing:** Martin 18-40, Meggett 2-0, Bledsoe 1-1.  
**Miami passing:** Marino 14-20 for 193 yards, 1 INT, 1 TD; Kirby 1-1 for 31 yards, 0 INT, 1 TD.  
**New England passing:** Bledsoe 25-51 for 267 yards, 2 INT, 0 TD.  
**Miami receiving:** Fryar 3-113, Parmalee 3-22, Clark 2-42, Byars 2-22, Kirby 2-9, Green 1-13, Wilson 1-3, Spikes 1-0.

**New England receiving:** Moore 8-112, Brisby 5-77, Meggett 5-15, Coates 3-23, Gash 2-18, Lee 1-13, Martin 1-9.

**Miami tackles-assists-sacks (unofficial):** Singleton 10-3-0, Cox 7-6-1, Stewart 5-8-0, Klingbeil 4-2-0, Atkins 4-0-0, Brown 4-0-0, Vincent 3-1-0, Cross 2-0-0, Armstrong 1-1-0, Bowers 1-1-0, Coleman 0-2-0, Jackson 1-0-0, Buckley 0-1-0, Emtman 1-0-0, Hollier 0-1-0.

**New England tackles-assists-sacks (unofficial):** Ray 9-3-0, Brown 6-5-0, Slade 6-0-0, Hurst 4-2-0, McGinest 4-1-0, Barnett 3-2-0, Guyton 3-2-0, Johnson 3-1-0, Roberts 1-2-0, White 1-2-0, Walker 2-0-0, Collins 1-1-0, Jones 1-1-0, Reynolds 1-1-0, Moore 1-0-0, Law 0-1-0.

**Turnovers — Interceptions:** Miami (Cox 1 for 12 yards, Stewart 1 for 0 yards); New England (Reynolds 1 for 0 yards). **Fumbles:** Miami (McDuffie, Parmalee); New England (Bledsoe).

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Aug. 4	JACKSONVILLE	L, 24-21
Aug. 11	at Atlanta	L, 37-0
Aug. 19	WASHINGTON	W, 27-13
Aug. 25	vs. Tampa Bay at Orlando	L, 24-17

### REGULAR SEASON

Sept. 3	NEW YORK JETS	W, 52-14
Sept. 10	at New England	W, 20-3
Sept. 18	PITTSBURGH	9 p.m. ABC
Sept. 24	BYE	
Oct. 1	at Cincinnati	1 p.m. NBC
Oct. 8	INDIANAPOLIS	4 p.m. NBC
Oct. 15	at New Orleans	4 p.m. NBC
Oct. 22	at New York Jets	1 p.m. NBC
Oct. 29	BUFFALO	4 p.m. NBC
Nov. 5	at San Diego	8 p.m. ESPN
Nov. 12	NEW ENGLAND	1 p.m. NBC
Nov. 20	SAN FRANCISCO	9 p.m. ABC
Nov. 26	at Indianapolis	1 p.m. NBC
Dec. 3	ATLANTA	1 p.m. FOX
Dec. 11	KANSAS CITY	9 p.m. ABC
Dec. 17	at Buffalo	1 p.m. NBC
Dec. 24	at St. Louis	4 p.m. NBC

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# DOLPHINS REPORT CARD

## Game No. 2 • Miami 20, New England 3

### QUARTERBACKS

Dan Marino completed 14 of 20 passes for 193 yards, one touchdown and one interception, not exactly a highly productive day by his lofty standards. This was, in part, due to the success of the rushing attack and in part because the Patriots had the ball much of the second half. Marino, however, did have some nice throws. His 67-yard scoring pass to Irving Fryar was a thing of beauty, as was a 24-yard strike to Gary Clark in the fourth quarter. Marino's only interception came after Fryar slipped while making a cut, leaving defender Ricky Reynolds with a clear shot at the ball. **Grade: B+**

### RUNNING BACKS

Terry Kirby rushed for 82 yards on 13 carries, including a 38-yard run that iced the game in the fourth quarter and a crucial 13-yard run with the Dolphins deep in their own territory. He also threw the first touchdown pass of his career. Parmalee followed close behind with 72 yards on 15 carries, but his day was ruined by a fumble inside the New England 5-yard line — his third fumble in two games. In Parmalee's defense, he had both hands around the ball when it was knocked loose. Irving Spikes completed this effective trio with 29 yards on six carries. All told, the Dolphins rushed for 182 yards on 35 carries for a 5.2-yard average, a big reason they won the game. **Grade: A-**

### RECEIVERS

Fryar had his second straight big game, catching three passes for 113 yards and two touchdowns. He did a nice job faking a block on his touchdown catch from Terry Kirby. Bernie Parmalee also had three catches, but for only 22 yards. Clark caught his first two passes

as a Dolphin on catches of 24 and 18 yards. Keith Byars also had two catches for 22 yards. Tight end Eric Green had a nice 13-yard catch, breaking a tackle after the catch. He also had another catch and run nullified due to a penalty. **Grade: B+**

### OFFENSIVE LINE

There were far too many mistakes on the line despite the fact that Marino wasn't sacked and the rushing attack was so effective. A critical error was made when rookie Billy Milner failed to report to the official on a tackle-eligible play. This resulted in a 5-yard penalty and negated a key first down deep in Patriots territory. It was also a rough day for Richmond Webb, who was flagged three times, once for holding and twice for false starts. Tim Ruddy and Keith Sims also were flagged once for holding. So much for the bad news. The good news was that the line manhandled the New England front seven and did a solid job picking up a variety of Patriots blitzes. Eric Green was very effective blocking from the tight end position and Ron Heller had a strong game. **Grade: B**

### DEFENSIVE LINE

An outstanding performance by the interchangeable six-man unit of Jeff Cross, Marco Coleman, Tim Bowens, Chuck Klingbeil, Trace Armstrong and Steve Emtman. Cross had two tipped balls, one of them resulting in an interception, and also had a fumble recovery. Klingbeil and Bowens did a superb job clogging the middle, paving the way for numerous tackles by the linebackers. Emtman had several pressures on Drew Bledsoe. The Pats rushed for just 39 yards on 21 carries. The only real downer, and a minor one at that, were offside penalties on Armstrong and Coleman. **Grade: A**

### LINEBACKERS

What a game for Bryan Cox and Chris Singleton. All Cox did was finish with 13 tackles, a sack for a 14-yard loss, an interception and a forced fumble. His interception clinched the victory. Singleton also had 13 tackles, 10 of them solo, including a stop of running back Dave Meggett for a 4-yard loss on a swing pass. The third starting linebacker, Dwight Hollier, did a good job against the run and was credited with an assist when the Dolphins stopped Curtis Martin for a loss on a key fourth-and-goal in the second half. **Grade: A**

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

It was a good day, but could have been a great day if not for three missed interceptions — one each by Troy Vincent, Gene Atkins and Louis Oliver. The star of the secondary was clearly Michael Stewart, who was in on 11 tackles and had a key interception inside the Dolphins 5-yard line. Stewart did a first-rate job staying with Coates, who was held to just three catches for 23 yards. Vincent was beaten once on a 33-yard pass from Bledsoe to Will Moore, who finished with eight catches for 112 yards. Fellow cornerback J.B. Brown was in on four tackles. **Grade: B+**

### SPECIAL TEAMS

A fumble by punt returner O.J. McDuffie early in the third quarter could have been devastating, but the defense bailed him out. McDuffie, overall, did a solid job on kickoffs with returns of 33 and 30 yards. Pete Stoyanovich converted a pair of chip-shot field goals, but had a 54-yard attempt blocked. John Kidd punted only twice, but one of them traveled 56 yards. The coverage teams were good for the second straight week, holding Meggett without any big plays. **Grade: C+**

— Andy Cohen

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## DOLPHIN DIGEST PLAYER OF THE WEEK

## BRYAN COX

## LINEBACKER

Linebacker Bryan Cox is the *Dolphin Digest* Player of the Week for his performance in last Sunday's 20-3 victory over the New England Patriots.

Cox was outstanding in every phase. He had 13 tackles, one quarterback sack for a 14-yard loss and a key interception that helped seal the victory in the fourth quarter.

Also considered for Player of the Week honors were safety Michael Stewart, wide receiver Irving Fryar and running back Terry Kirby.



Digest Photo/HONDA WISP

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## DOLPHIN DATA

### Deion call never came

The Dolphins pretty much gave up on the idea of being able to sign free agent cornerback **Deion Sanders** by the middle of last week. While Dallas, San Francisco and Denver had put forth big offers, the Dolphins decided to wait for a call from Sanders' agent. It was a call that never came.

"Last year we stepped out and made a great offer right away, but our approach is much more conservative this year," Dolphins general manager **Eddie Jones** said a couple of days before Sanders signed with Dallas. "If Deion's interested in playing for the Dolphins, he'll call us."

Coach **Don Shula** said he was disappointed Sanders never gave the Dolphins a chance. "I would have liked the opportunity to see if we could have competed on the offer," said Shula.

**ROSTER MOVE:** Cornerback **Calvin Jackson** was activated from the practice squad last weekend, in time to take part in the game against New England. Jackson, a free agent out of Auburn, was promoted because of the injury to backup **Frankie Smith**, who pulled a hamstring in the opener against the Jets. To make room for Jackson, the Dolphins waived fullback **Lee McCClinton**, who had made the team as an undrafted rookie out of New Hampshire. McCClinton, who was inactive for the opener against the Jets, was



Sanders



Smith



Singleton



Hill

later re-signed to the practice squad.

**CHECKING OUT:** The Dolphins took a look at former Steelers tight end **Walter Rasby** last week when he came in for a workout.

**JETTISONED JAMES:** The Dolphins waived offensive lineman **Jason James**, a rookie free agent from Fresno State, off the practice squad.

**MOSS UPDATE:** Running back **Brent Moss**, who made a good impression in training camp as a rookie free agent, has been signed to the

St. Louis Rams practice squad. Meanwhile, tackle **Seth Dittman**, who also was in training camp this summer, was waived off the Green Bay practice squad.

**LOWERING THE BOOM:** Linebacker **Chris Singleton** took one for the team against the Jets when **Boomer Esiason** threw the ball in his face after New York was penalized for a false start on third-and-2. Esiason was fined \$2,500 by the NFL for his indiscretion.

**MUHAMMAD'S MISERY:** Former Dolphins defensive back **Muhammad Oliver** had his first season with the Washington Redskins cut short when he was placed on injured reserve because of a knee injury. Oliver, who had played mostly special teams since joining the Redskins as a free agent, was injured during a practice drill.

**NOT DONE YET:** The NFL isn't through investigating **Dan Marino's** investment in **Wayne Huizenga's** Republic Waste Industries after all. It turns out a statement from NFL title **Harold Henderson** was just a preliminary finding, according to NFL spokesman **Greg Aiello**. The Dolphins remain convinced they will be cleared of any wrongdoing concerning the salary cap.

**FRYAR'S MESSAGE:** Former Patriot **Irving Fryar** blew the New England fans a kiss after his second touchdown reception last Sunday. "Well, they were booing me," Fryar said. "They were booing me, so I was letting them know how much I loved them."

**INACTIVE INFO:** Wide receiver **Randal Hill**, bypassed in favor in **Mike Williams**, was the most interesting name among the Dolphins' inactive players last Sunday. "Don Shula makes the calls," Hill said. "I'm emotionless. Like Dr. Spock." Also inactive were defensive tackle **Norman Hand**, offensive linemen **Tom McHale** and **Andrew Greene**, wide receiver **Ricky Sanders**, quarterback **Dan McGwire**, linebacker **Dion Foxx** and cornerback **Frankie Smith**.

### Marino keeps moving closer

The first career passing record Dan Marino will break this year should be the completion record. Marino is 53 away from **Fran Tarkenton** and at his current 1995 pace he should break the record Oct. 15 at New Orleans.

Here's where Marino stands in the other categories, with the projected record-breaking date — again using his 1995 averages, which are below his career averages:

Touchdowns: Trails Tarkenton by 10, projected record-breaking date is Oct. 29 at Joe Robbie Stadium against Buffalo.

Yards: Trails Tarkenton by 1,388, projected record-breaking date is Nov. 5 at San Diego.

Attempts: Trails Tarkenton by 373, projected record-breaking date is early in the 1996 season.

### Injury Update ...

The Dolphins got a major scare last Sunday when fullback **Keith Byars** remained on the ground after a running play holding the same knee which was injured during the 1994 season.

"I was thinking back to that other injury to see if it felt the same way," Byars said. "But before too long, I knew it wasn't as bad."

Byars, who was hurt when an offensive lineman fell on the back of his leg, was able to return to the game and he is expected to be ready for Monday night's game against Pittsburgh.

The diagnosis was a strained knee and Byars felt some stiffness and soreness the day after the New England game and he skipped practice. But he was expected to resume working out after the players' day off on Tuesday.

Cornerback **Frankie Smith** did not play against the Patriots because of a hamstring injury suffered in the opener and he's not expected to be ready for the Pittsburgh game.

After missing most of training camp while rehabilitating an ankle injury, offensive lineman **Bert Weidner** saw his first action of the regular season against the Patriots.

Considering he's one of the few backup offensive linemen with any significant NFL experience, that certainly had to be a welcome sight for the Dolphins.



Irving Fryar

### Statistically speaking

- Irving Fryar's 67-yard reception from Dan Marino was the Dolphins' longest play from scrimmage since Keith Byars' 77-yard run at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day in 1993.

- The Dolphins have given up only 17 points this season, their best two-game total since 1981 when they opened by beating St. Louis 20-7 and Pittsburgh 30-10. The only year the Dolphins did better was in 1977 when they began by defeating Buffalo 13-0 and San Francisco 19-15.

- New England's 39 yards rushing was the lowest total allowed by the Dolphins since Green Bay gained just 38 in the second game of the 1994 season.

- After taking 16 games to score a first-quarter TD last year, the Dolphins accomplished the feat in their second game this season.

- Dan Marino has won his last 11 starts against the Patriots.

- Drew Bledsoe has now gone two games against Miami without getting his team into the end zone.

- The Dolphins are off to a 2-0 start for the fourth time in the last six years and the 11th time overall. The only time the Dolphins have started 2-0 and failed to make the playoffs was in 1977 when they finished 10-4 and tied for first with Baltimore in the AFC East.



# NO AVERAGE JOE

**Greene now  
making his mark  
as assistant coach**

By Pat McMANAMON  
Digest Correspondent

**J**oe Greene glances over the practice field as he sits on the balcony of the Miami Dolphins training facility.

Greene leans back, inhales a Honduran cigar — Excalibur #1 — and talks of how much he loves to coach, how it's enjoyable "99.9 percent of the time." He talks of how important it is to reach players, and how grateful he is to Don Shula.

As he speaks, it becomes apparent that it must be awfully nice to be Joe Greene.

Here is one of the greatest and toughest and, yes, meanest defensive tackles ever to play the game speaking patiently of teaching, of working to help Shula reach a Super Bowl.

Yet at the same time you wonder ... why is Joe Greene not a defensive coordinator somewhere? Why has he not had another head coaching opportunity since the Steelers decided to hire Bill Cowher over him?

The answers are simple.

"I enjoy what I'm doing; I'm not looking to do something else," Greene said matter-of-factly, with that look in his eye that tells anyone listening it's probably not wise to question him.

Greene said he hasn't fielded calls about moving up to be a coordinator because he's not interested. As for being a head coach ...

"If somebody offered me a position as a head coach or an opportunity to interview, I wouldn't say, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah, let's do it,'" Greene said. "I'd probably really think about it for a day or two."

And maybe then he wouldn't interview because he would want the situation to be right. Perhaps it's the leftover disappointment from when Cowher was hired four years ago, or perhaps it's something more simple: Joe Greene likes his life.

"Coach (Shula) gave me a job when it was the last job that was available in the NFL," Greene said. "I was in a situation in Pittsburgh



Dolphins defensive linemen would be quick to point out that Joe Greene disproves the theory that great players don't make great coaches. Digest Photo/KEN KEIDEL

where the thing I really, really, really wanted to do was to help Coach (Chuck) Noll win another Super Bowl. That's the thing I want to do here. I want to be part of it, to help Coach win.

"I know it's important to him."

Dolphins players happily tick off the ways Greene helps the team achieve that goal.

They credit Greene for developing Tim Bowens into the Defensive Rookie of the Year, for helping Chuck Klingbeil become one of the best run-stoppers in the NFL, for bringing an intensity to the defensive line that wasn't there before his arrival. Trace Armstrong has been with the team for just a few months, but he said he's a better player already — because of Joe Greene.

"I think I develop a greater appreciation for him every day as a coach," Armstrong said. "Joe's the most cerebral coach I've had since I've been in the league."

Greene's method is simple: He communicates. "Everybody has some way that you can reach them," Greene said. "Through talking,

actions or whatever. Sometimes it's not just the first or the second time that you say the same thing that he's going to get it. Maybe it's the 100th, or the 200th. You know if the player has that kind of time he's going to be a good player, but a lot of times he doesn't have that kind of time."

When a player runs out of time, "that's the worst feeling of all as a coach," Greene says.

Note the phrasing. It's not that the player fails, just that he doesn't have the time. Greene, the teacher, thinks he can always get through to a player.

It's an axiom in sports that the best players do not make the best managers or coaches. They try too hard to make a player do it the way they did when they played, so the thinking goes. Noll said the axiom is very true in football, but he never hesitated to offer Greene a coaching job.

"Joe was a great leader for us," Noll said. "He



## GREENE, from preceding page

still has that leadership quality. And that's what Joe has done with the technique aspect of the game. He studied other people and knows there's more than one way to do it. He wants players to settle on the way that works for them."

Greene has heard the axiom, but obviously doesn't buy it — for reasons that may be surprising.

"I've been on four Super Bowl championships, been to a few Pro Bowls, won some awards," Greene said. "If that makes me a great player ... I don't know. I don't know that. I do know that I had fun. I wasn't the fastest guy, the quickest guy, nor the strongest. But there was one thing that I felt I had that was equal to anybody and maybe superior than most, and that was the attitude that I was going to get you."

"Whatever it took, I was going to get you."

That attitude developed from playing and coaching for Noll, an undersized guard and linebacker as a player for the Cleveland Browns and a coach who led the Steelers to four Super Bowl titles.

"Forever and forever and forever, he would go over about how he was a little guy as a player, and how he had to be fundamentally sound," Greene said. "He used to tell me all the time that I was a big guy and I didn't have to know the technique, but he did. He would always harp about technique, technique, technique."

"Over time, I began to understand that that was really what made it work. Technique. Fundamentals. That's what I try to relate to the players."

Which is why Greene respects a player like Klingbeil so much. He is not the fastest, nor is he the biggest tackle, but he has tried to grasp what Greene teaches. And he has become very adept at his craft.

"Athletic ability takes you part of the trip," Greene said. "It doesn't get you all the way. That's why Chuck is successful now. He paid attention to the technique. He works hard at it. Not just one play, but every play."

Everything Greene teaches, players said, is based on fundamentals.

"Stance. Hands. Takeoff," Armstrong said.

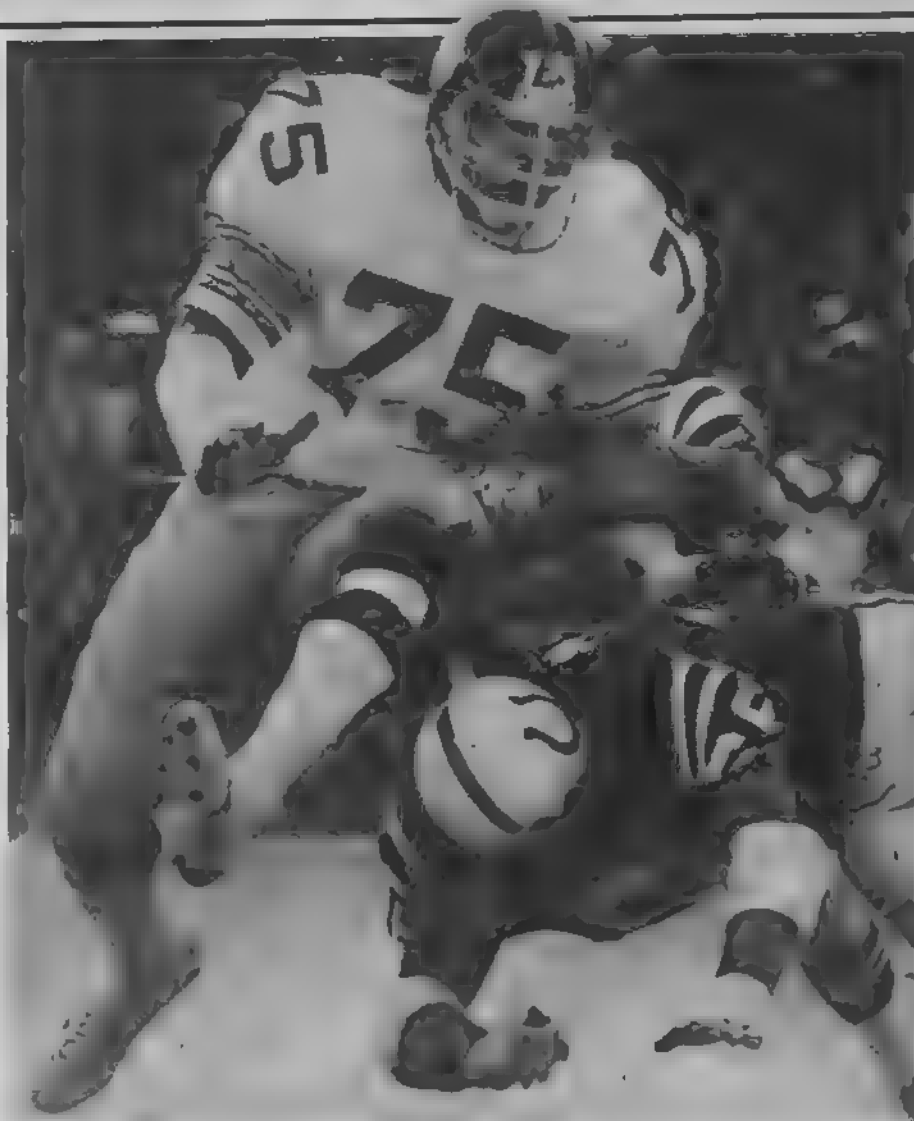
Though it sounds boring, it's not.

"You actually look forward to going into meetings," Klingbeil said. "There's not a lot of players in the league who can say that."

"He creates the atmosphere where you can try new things and you don't have to worry about failing," Armstrong said. "In some environments, you stick to what you know because you don't want to see a play on film where you look like you're upside down. Joe will say, 'You're trying and this is why it didn't work, but that's good. Keep working on it.'"

"That attitude is critical to having guys improve."

All the Dolphins admitted that at first they



Greene was very emotional as a Hall of Fame defensive tackle for the Steelers and that side of him surfaces from time to time these days.

listened to Greene because of who he is. But they quickly added that if Greene's words were empty, the glow from the past would wear off in a hurry.

Greene understands.

"One thing that I try to do, and I probably don't accomplish it, is not to tell war stories," Greene said. "Not to say, 'I did it this way, and we did it this way.' You can only hear that so many times and then it doesn't have any effect. Whenever I try to make a parallel to my experiences, it's to try to make a point that we can use now."

"One thing I hated as a player was b.s. I hate it now. And I try not to do that with my guys. What I say, I want it to be serious and straightforward and honest."

As a player, Greene would do almost anything to get the job done. It's not unreasonable to say that his reputation was built partially on things he did outside the rules. National TV caught him punching a Denver guard in a playoff game. A newspaper photo had him kicking an opposing guard. Noll called him emotional, but said as Greene's career progressed he learned to deal with his emotions.

"He would get angry," Noll said. "When someone would hold him, for example, and officials wouldn't call it. Then he became a vigilante. I think he got that under control."

Noll called Greene an emotional player who loved the game enough to study it while he was playing. That helped him when he started coaching.

But he has not lost that emotional fire, either.

"You don't see it as much, but you know it's in there," Klingbeil said. "You see the tip of the iceberg. Every once in a while, little things he says and does ..."

"I think Joe could still play," Armstrong said. "You watch him during warmups ..."

Or after a loss. When the Dolphins' 1994 season ended in San Diego, some coaches and players stood outside the team bus talking to friends and family. Greene? He sat silent and stone-faced in the front row of the bus.

Nobody, player or media, went near Greene after that game, which probably was a good idea.

It's that intensity, though, that sometimes is used against Greene when the possibility of his becoming a head coach is mentioned. Can he face the media after losses? Can he deal with the second-guessing? Could he take criticism?

"I'm sure I could handle honest criticism pretty well," Greene said. "Negative criticism, I'd probably blow it off or I'd consider the source. I can see through it in this business. Put me in the political arena and I'd have trouble seeing it. Criticism is something we all have to deal with."

Questions about Greene usually come, though, from outside the team. And on days when Greene gives thoughtful, reasoned answers in interviews, the questions seem ludicrous. What Greene is, is careful. He won't talk to everybody, and he won't always answer every question.

Last season, Greene talked about how enjoyable it was when he played to have that local sportswriter follow the team, the guy who would praise when it was due and criticize when it was warranted. The good thing, Greene said, was that players understood because that writer understood the game. It was OK for him to criticize.

These days, Greene said he sees talk radio's effect on fans, and he sees tabloidism creeping into newspapers.

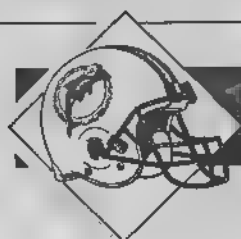
"Some of it is justified, and some is not," Greene said. "When it's justified, I can understand it. But some guys don't want to be the odd man out. Since everybody is criticizing, they do it. That's in vogue, I guess."

The peripheral aspects of coaching don't stop him from doing his job and concentrating on what really matters, though. To Greene, it's all very simple. His efforts and concentration and work are wrapped up in one thing: winning.

"Seeing the people that you're responsible for have success and enjoy it," Greene said. "That's something that I have a perspective on because we had success. That is the greatest feeling one can have in sports, to be the best for that particular season. That's what we did."

"There was nothing better."





## Miami Dolphins

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
10	Pete Stoyanovich	PK	5-11	195	7	Indiana
11	Dan McGwire	QB	6-8	240	5	San Diego State
13	Dan Marino	QB	6-4	224	12	Pittsburgh
17	John Kidd	P	6-3	214	12	Northwestern
19	Bernie Kosar	QB	6-5	214	11	Miami
23	Troy Vincent	CB	6-0	195	4	Wisconsin
24	Pat Johnson	S	6-1	204	1	Purdue
25	Louis Oliver	S	6-2	224	7	Florida
27	Terrell Buckley	CB	5-9	176	4	Florida State
28	Gene Atkins	S	5-11	201	9	Florida A&M
29	Frankie Smith	CB	5-9	182	3	Baylor
30	Bernie Parmalee	RB	5-11	196	4	Bail State
31	Sean Hill	CB	5-10	179	2	Montana State
35	Michael Stewart	S	5-10	202	9	Fresno State
37	J.B. Brown	CB	6-0	191	7	Maryland
40	Irving Spikes	RB	5-8	206	2	N.E. Louisiana
41	Keith Byars	FB	6-1	255	10	Ohio State
42	Terry Kirby	RB	6-1	218	3	Virginia
48	Lee McClinton	FB	5-11	252	R	New Hampshire
49	Robert Wilson	FB	6-0	255	3	Texas A&M
50	Dwight Hollier	LB	6-2	250	4	North Carolina
51	Bryan Cox	LB	6-4	248	5	Western Illinois
52	Jeff Kopp	LB	6-3	243	R	Southern Cal
53	Aubrey Beavers	LB	6-3	231	2	Oklahoma
55	Chris Singleton	LB	6-2	246	6	Arizona
57	Dion Foxx	LB	6-3	250	2	James Madison
59	Dewayne Dotson	LB	6-1	256	1	Mississippi
60	Bert Weidner	G	6-2	295	6	Kent State
61	Tim Ruddy	C	6-3	290	2	Notre Dame
62	Chris Gray	G	6-4	292	3	Auburn
68	Andrew Greene	G	6-3	304	R	Indiana
69	Keith Sims	G	6-3	309	6	Iowa State
71	Ethan Albright	T	6-5	292	1	North Carolina
72	Tom McHale	OL	6-4	290	9	Cornell
73	Ron Heller	T	6-6	290	12	Penn State
74	Ed Hawthorne	NT	6-1	305	R	Minnesota
78	Richmond Webb	T	6-6	303	6	Texas A&M
79	Billy Milner	T	6-5	293	R	Houston
80	Irving Fryar	WR	6-0	200	12	Nebraska
81	O.J. McDuffie	WR	5-10	188	3	Penn State
83	Rickey Sanders	WR	5-11	185	10	SW Texas State
84	Gary Clark	WR	5-9	175	11	James Madison
85	Ronnie Williams	TE	6-3	258	3	Oklahoma State
86	Eric Green	TE	6-5	280	6	Liberty
87	Mike Williams	WR	6-0	183	5	Northwestern
89	Randal Hill	WR	5-10	180	5	Miami (Fla.)
90	Marco Coleman	DE	6-3	267	4	Georgia Tech
91	Jeff Cross	DE	6-4	280	8	Missouri
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	260	7	Florida
94	Steve Emtman	DT	6-4	284	4	Washington
95	Tim Bowens	DT	6-4	310	2	Mississippi
96	Norman Hand	DT	6-3	329	R	Mississippi
99	Chuck Klingbeil	NT	6-1	288	5	Northem Michigan

## Pittsburgh Steelers



No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
3	Rohn Stark	P	6-3	203	14	Florida State
9	Norm Johnson	K	6-2	203	14	UCLA
10	Kordell Stewart	QB	6-1	212	R	Colorado
14	Neil O'Donnell	QB	6-3	230	6	Maryland
16	Jim Miller	QB	6-2	226	2	Michigan State
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	207	11	Ohio State
20	Erric Pegram	RB	5-10	195	5	North Texas
21	Deon Figures	CB/PR	6-0	203	3	Colorado
22	John L. Williams	FB	5-11	231	10	Florida
24	Chris Oldham	CB	5-9	183	4	Oregon
25	Fred McAfee	RB	5-10	193	5	Mississippi College
26	Rod Woodson	CB/KR	6-0	200	9	Purdue
27	Willie Williams	CB	5-9	185	3	Western Carolina
28	Alvoid Mays	CB	5-9	172	6	West Virginia
30	Lance Brown	DB	6-0	200	R	Indian
33	Bam Morris	RB	6-0	235	2	Texas Tech
37	Carnell Lake	SS	6-1	210	7	UCLA
39	Darren Perry	FS	5-11	196	4	Penn State
40	Myron Bell	S	5-11	203	2	Michigan State
41	Lethon Flowers	DB	6-0	202	R	Georgia Tech
43	Steve Avery	FB	6-2	233	2	Northern Michigan
54	Donta Jones	LB	6-2	226	R	Nebraska
55	Jerry Olsavsky	LB	6-1	221	7	Pittsburgh
57	Eric Ravotti	LB	6-3	254	2	Penn State
60	Kendall Gammon	C	6-4	288	4	Pittsburg State
63	Dermontti Dawson	C	6-2	286	8	Kentucky
65	John Jackson	OT	6-6	297	8	Eastern Kentucky
66	Thomas Newberry	G	6-2	285	10	Wisconsin-La Crosse
68	Brenden Stai	G	6-4	305	R	Nebraska
69	Ariel Solomon	C/G	6-5	290	5	Colorado
72	Leon Searcy	OT	6-3	304	4	Miami (Fla.)
73	Justin Strzelczyk	G/OT	6-6	295	6	Maine
76	Kevin Henry	DE	6-4	270	3	Mississippi State
78	Ta'ase Faumui	DL	6-3	278	2	Hawaii
79	James Parrish	OL	6-6	320	2	Temple
80	Johnnie Barnes	WR	6-1	185	4	Hampton University
81	Charles Johnson	WR	6-0	189	2	Colorado
82	Yancey Thigpen	WR	6-1	208	4	Winston-Salem St.
83	Corey Holliday	WR	6-2	208	1	North Carolina
84	Tracy Greene	TE	6-5	282	2	Grambling
85	Jonathan Hayes	TE	6-5	248	11	Iowa
87	Mark Bruener	TE	6-4	250	R	Washington
88	Andre Hastings	WR	6-1	190	3	Georgia
89	Ernie Mills	WR	5-11	192	5	Florida
91	Kevin Greene	LB	6-3	247	11	Auburn
92	Jason Gildon	LB	6-3	237	2	Oklahoma State
93	Joel Steed	NT	6-2	295	4	Colorado
94	Chad Brown	LB	6-2	236	3	Colorado
95	Greg Lloyd	LB	6-2	226	9	Fort Valley State
96	Brentson Buckner	DE	6-2	305	2	Clemson
97	Ray Seals	DE	6-3	309	8	None
98	Oliver Gibson	DT	6-2	283	R	Notre Dame
99	Levon Kirkland	LB	6-1	252	4	Clemson

### STARTING LINEUPS



WHEN THE DOLPHINS HAVE THE BALL



WHEN THE STEELERS HAVE THE BALL



# Countdown to Kickoff

## MIAMI DOLPHINS vs. PITTSBURGH STEELERS

### GAME FACTS

- DATE ..... Sept. 18, 1995
- TIME ..... 9 p.m. EDT
- SITE ..... Joe Robbie Stadium
- ATTENDANCE ..... 73,000

### THE SERIES

The Dolphins lead the series 9-7, but have had their problems of late, losing four of the last five meetings. The Steelers are 2-1 at Joe Robbie Stadium, winning in 1989 and 1993. Miami won at JRS in 1987. The teams have met twice in the AFC Championship game and the Dolphins won both times, following the 1972 and 1984 seasons. The Steelers beat the Dolphins in the 1979 playoffs.

### LAST MEETING

Gary Anderson kicked a 39-yard field goal in overtime to give the Steelers a 16-13 victory at Three Rivers Stadium Nov. 20, 1994. The Dolphins forced overtime on Pete Stoyanovich's 48-yard field goal on the last play of regulation. Dan Marino threw for 312 yards and a touchdown for the Dolphins, while Mike Tomczak threw for 343 yards for Pittsburgh.

### CONNECTIONS

Dolphins defensive line coach Joe Greene was a Steelers Hall of Fame defensive tackle from 1969-81. Dolphins tight end Eric Green was Pittsburgh's No. 1 pick in 1990 and played with the Steelers through the 1994 season.

### PLAYERS TO WATCH



#### BAM MORRIS

A third-round pick in the 1994 draft, Morris has replaced Barry Foster as the workhorse in the Steelers backfield.

Like Foster, Morris is a banger who likes to run straight ahead. The 6-foot, 245-pound back from Texas Tech was somewhat of a surprise as a rookie when he gained 836 yards and scored six touchdowns.

He started off on the right foot this season with a couple of touchdown runs in a 23-20 victory over the Detroit Lions.



#### CHAD BROWN

It somehow got lost in the shadows of Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene, but Brown emerged as one of the top inside linebackers in the game last season.

As proof, he led the team in tackles, was third with 8½ sacks and was second with six passes deflected.

Brown, a second-round pick from Colorado in 1993, possesses an impressive combination of size, speed and strength, and he put those attributes to use while recording three sacks against Houston last Sunday.

### KEY MATCHUPS

**Dolphins tight end Eric Green vs. the Steelers defense:** After all the verbal exchanges that were fired during training camp, you know Green wants to have a monster game against his former team. The feeling is mutual.

**Dolphins offensive tackles Richmond Webb and Ron Heller vs. Steelers linebackers Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene:** Lloyd and Greene can disrupt offenses with their blitzing ability, which they did at times against the Dolphins last season. It's up to Webb and Heller to keep the two Pro Bowlers away from Dan Marino.

**The Dolphins defensive line vs. the Steelers offensive line:** Pittsburgh usually wins games up front with its athletic and physical line. The Dolphins simply can't allow the Steelers to control the line of scrimmage.

### STAT OF THE WEEK

#### MONDAY NIGHT MAGIC

The best winning percentages on Monday Night Football

Team	Won-Lost	Pct.
Raiders	31-11-1	.733
Seahawks	11-5	.688
Chiefs	13-7	.650
Eagles	14-9	.609
49ers	23-15	.605
Dolphins	29-19	.604
Steelers	21-14	.600
Browns	13-9	.591

### WHEN THE DOLPHINS HAVE THE BALL

The loss of All-Pro cornerback Rod Woodson to a knee injury was devastating for what may have been the best defense in the league. Even without their star, the Steelers figure to be difficult to score on. Pittsburgh likes to apply plenty of pressure and is liable to send anyone on a blitz on any play. What remains to be seen is whether the Steelers will blitz as often without Woodson, whose loss leaves the Steelers more vulnerable in the secondary. Safeties Darren Perry and Carnell Lake are among the best in the NFL, as are outside linebacker Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene. The defensive line doesn't feature high-profile players, but Joel Steed leads a group that is very good against the run.

### WHEN THE STEELERS HAVE THE BALL

Pittsburgh isn't very fancy when it comes to offense, but the Steelers are very effective. The game plan calls for a lot of running plays behind one of the best offensive lines in the NFL. Leading the way up front are center Dermontti Dawson and offensive tackle John Jackson. Bam Morris and John L. Williams give the Steelers two physical backs with whom to pound away at defenses. Mike Tomczak should again start at quarterback for the injured Neil O'Donnell, but the Steelers don't want him throwing the ball that much. When he does, his main targets should be Williams out of the backfield and second-year wide receiver Charles Johnson.

### Last Week

The Pittsburgh defense held Houston to 207 total yards, recorded five sacks and three turnovers, and even provided a touchdown on Carnell Lake's 32-yard interception return to lead the way to a 34-17 victory over Houston. Pittsburgh, which won despite compiling only 250 yards on offense, took an early 7-0 lead when Andre Hastings returned a punt 72 yards for a touchdown.

### THE COACHES

#### DON SHULA

Dolphins coach Don Shula is in his 26th season in Miami, his 33rd overall. He entered the season as the NFL's all-time winningest coach, with 338 career victories. Shula is also the only coach who has gone to six Super Bowls.



#### BILL COWHER

Bill Cowher is in his fourth season as head coach of the Steelers and he has yet to experience a losing season. In fact, Cowher has guided the Steelers to AFC Central Division titles in two of his three seasons at the helm.



### Last Word

**(We'll) have to change some things, let's not kid ourselves.**

— COACH BILL COWHER  
AFTER THE INJURY  
TO ROD WOODSON



# OVERVIEW

Mail All Letters To: Overview, P.O. Box 526600, Miami, FL 33152 or Fax to (305) 477-1346

Dear Overview:

I am one of the biggest "Dolfans" around. I just read the morning paper, while killing time until the Dolphins take the field to slaughter the Patriots, and saw that Deion Sanders signed with Dallas.

If I could have just one Christmas wish this year, it would be: After the Dolphins go 17-1 this season and demolish the Cowboys in the Super Bowl, Dan Marino walks up to Deion, whose head is hung low while sitting on the bench, pats him on the back and says, "Don't cry, it'll be all right — you just underestimated us." Oh, what a wish this would be!

Chuck Giesler IV  
Virginia Beach, Va.

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

Hey Dolfans, we're 2-0. Can't ask for much more. But I do have some concerns.

I know the Patriots are a better team than the Jets, but I'm worried that we only scored three points in the second half. It seems like after a high-scoring game, we always have a low-scoring performance.

In the second half, our defense really came through. They were in the game a lot of minutes. If the Patriots would have had a better running game, we would have needed more than three points.

Now I'm not picking out bad points, but we have to play Pittsburgh on Monday night. They have a better defense and a better running game than the Patriots, so we can't afford another three-point half.

Mike Craig  
St. Louis, Mo.

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

I just moved to Florida from Roanoke, Va. I've been a diehard Dolphins fan since I was a little kid. I'm so excited about this season. Dan Marino is going to prove once and for all that he is indeed the greatest quarterback of all time. As for the people who say Montana is better because of his Super Bowl wins, just let me say this: If Dan Marino had the supporting cast of Montana, such as Roger Craig, Ronnie Lott, Jerry Rice and Co., then he would have won several Super Bowls already. Now, he finally has the people to do it.

James Whitt  
Avon Park, Fla.

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

I just finished watching our drubbing of the Jets. I was impressed. I live in Jets land, so I was happy that the Fish poured it on. But what I wanted to say was that there seems to be a

toughness on this team that wasn't there last year.

The D-line looks like it can dominate. The guys were fresh and we showed different looks every series. We put consistent pressure on the quarterback. We only had two sacks but a lot of knockdowns and flushes. I was actually looking forward to watching the "D" and not the "O"! This team is hitting hard now, even on special teams. I like the nastiness to this team.

Rod Castaldo  
Bayonne, N.J.

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

I am writing to express my delight in the articles *Dolphin Digest* published about Coach Shula and Darius Rucker. The Shula article provided a good contrast to the article written in *ESPN Pro Football '95*, and I agree, I don't care how Bryan Cox wears his helmet as long as he produces on the field.

The article on the famous fan, Darius Rucker, has given me the inspiration to write a song so I can meet my childhood hero, No. 85, Nick Buoniconti, the leaders of the "No Names." If the Dolphins do win the Super Bowl, I will be Rucker's distant neighbor on the next Himalayan mountain range.

Best of luck to all of the Dolphins and fellow Virginian, Terry Kirby.

Curt Rose  
Fredericksburg, Va.

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

Thanks for the best magazine there is for us Dolfans who want to get an inside view of our "heroes." I am from Norway, and we don't get a lot of opportunities to see what's going on, besides reading *Dolphin Digest*. My friend and I are traveling to Miami this autumn to see the Dolphins against the Bills on Oct. 29, and we wonder if it's possible to watch the Dolphins practice somewhere around that time? I guess a lot of Europeans would like to know that as well. Thanks again for a remarkable magazine and KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Bjorn-Ivar Sigbjornsen  
Arendal, Norway

*Editor's note: Sorry, all practices are closed to the public once the regular season begins.*

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

I'm a diehard Fins fan living and working abroad in Barcelona, Spain. I was recently down in Miami on vacation to see the Dolphins demolish the Jets at JRS. I really feel that the Dolphins are finally putting all their pieces together. We will go to the Big Dance this year because

of three reasons: 1) Dan Marino; 2) solid defense; 3) plenty of depth on both sides of the ball.

It is obvious that Shula is getting up there in years, so he knows it is now or never. Make the Barcelona Dolphins fans proud, in addition to all other Fins fans throughout the world for that matter. Take no prisoners!

Frank Argamasilla  
Barcelona, Spain

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

I live only 10 minutes from Giants Stadium, which is the home field of the N.Y. Jets, and most of my friends are Jets fans. As you can tell, it is tough being a Dolfan here in New Jersey. However, I had a few Jets fans over to watch the game at my house, which was enshrined with all sorts of Dolphins paraphernalia.

It was such an annihilation that by the start of the fourth quarter, I was watching the game with only my wife, my 5-year-old son and 1-year-old daughter. They are also Dolfans. All the embarrassed Jets fans left because they couldn't watch any more.

This was the Dolphins' first win of '95 on their way to the "Big Show" in Phoenix. With all the offseason moves the Dolphins management made, there is plenty of depth at all positions, just in case of injuries.

Don Shula and Dan Marino won't settle for anything short of winning the Super Bowl.

P.S. I am employed by Leon Hess, who happens to be the owner of the Jets.

Scott Murray  
Bloomfield, N.J.

\*\*\*

Dear Overview:

The Dolphins were making all the right personnel moves until the final week of cutdowns on Aug. 27, when they cut Brent Moss and traded Pete Mitchell.

I don't believe that this will stop the Dolphins from winning the Super Bowl, but it might make it harder.

Pete Mitchell had outstanding receiving ability. His 19 receptions were the real reason Boston College upset Notre Dame two years ago.

Then the Dolphins release Brent Moss. As any NFL spectator knows, the Dolphins have had a grim history of running backs getting injured these past few years. I think this former 1,000-yard collegiate rusher would have solved that problem.

Andrew A. Gelardi  
New York, N.Y.

*Editor's note: For the record, Mitchell had 13 catches two years ago when Boston College beat Notre Dame.*





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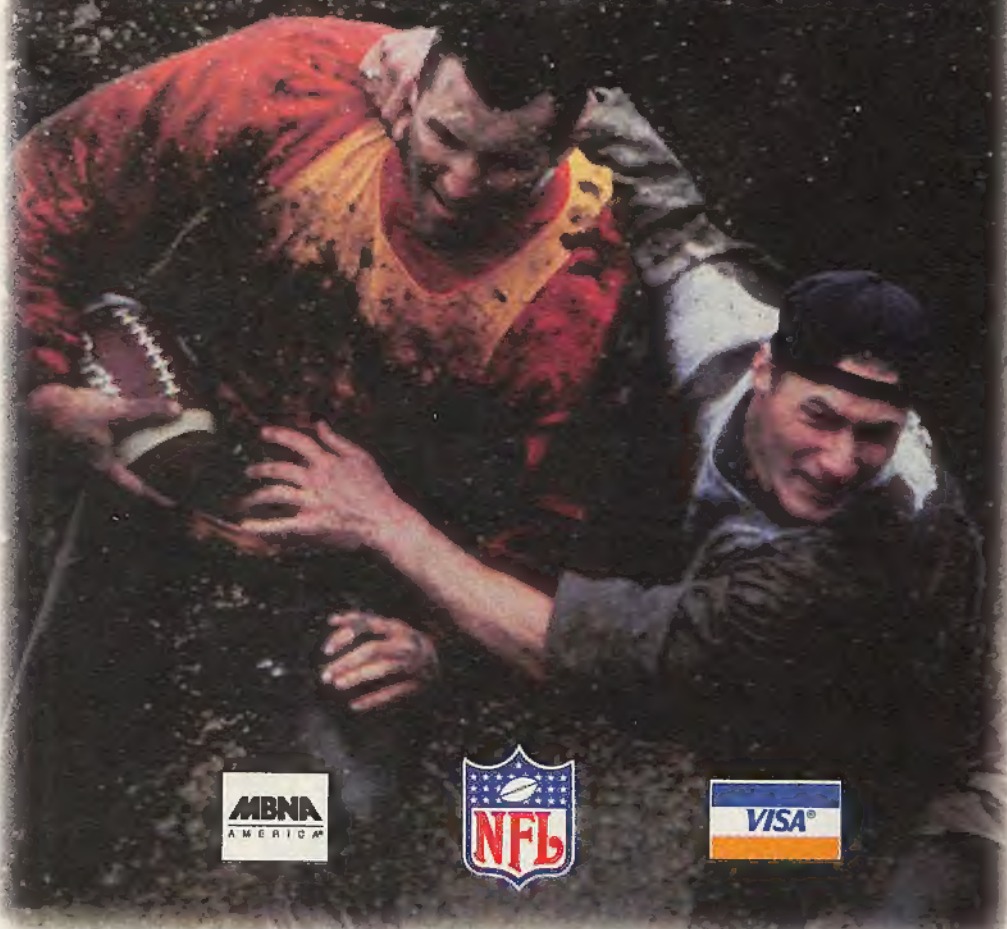
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80 HOUSTON OILERS					
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86 CAROLINA PANTHERS					
87 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS P-1:00PM C-3:00PM E-4:00PM	11				
88 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS					
89 WASHINGTON REDSKINS P-1:00PM C-3:00PM E-4:00PM	8 1/2				
90 DENVER BRONCOS					
91 CINCINNATI BENGALS P-1:00PM C-3:00PM E-4:00PM	4				
92 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	1 1/2				
93 CHICAGO BEARS P-1:00PM C-3:00PM E-4:00PM					
94 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS					
95 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS P-1:00PM C-3:00PM E-4:00PM	7				
96 NEW YORK JETS	8				
97 DALLAS COWBOYS (H) P-5:00PM C-7:00PM E-8:00PM					
98 MINNESOTA VIKINGS TM					

**Monday, September 18, 1995**

99 PITTSBURGH STEELERS (H) P-5:00PM C-8:00PM E-9:00PM					
100 MIAMI DOLPHINS ABC	7				

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